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than four, giving a buoyancy equal to 28 pounds or more, without the risk of the hats filling with water. If instead of a stick, two hats were connected together by a handkerchief, the hats may be used to swim with, as boys use corks. It often happens that danger is descried long before we are involved in the peril, and time enough to prepare some one of the above mentioned methods; and a courageous person, I am confident, would, seven instances out of ten, apply to them with success; and travellers in fording rivers at unknown fords, or where shallows are deceitful, might make use of these methods with advantage. By experiments I have made, it appears that a common sized hat, such as is now in fashion, will support more than ten pounds weight, without sinking; but with a weight of about seven pounds, it would not be liable to fill, even if there was a little ripple on the water. The handkerchief applied as above directed, covering the open part of the hat prevents it being readily filled by the splashing of the water; and as it is well known that the human body is nearly of the same specific gravity as water, it must be evident that a buoyancy of seven pounds will, if properly managed, keep the head above the surface till more effectual assistance is procured.

HENRY LAWSON,
Philosophical Magazine, 20, p. 302.

T.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

EDUCATION OF THE POOR.

THE Edinburgh reviewers speaking of the illiberal opposition which has been urged against the scheme of Joseph Lancaster, for the education of the poor, very forcibly observe, "how much more enlightened and rational authority have we in the

conduct of the king of England—the patron of the Lancastrian system!—and how noble is the commentary upon it which his own memorable speech to the author of the system affords!—We allude to that exalted saying of his (which we own strikes us as infinitely finer than the celebrated wish of Henry 4th of France) that *he hoped to see the day when every poor child in his dominions should be able to read his bible.*"

This sentiment is indeed noble, and if generally extended would, in process of time, redress many of the miseries of the Irish people—to contribute to this important end is the duty of every true lover of his country, and it is under that impression, I request your insertion of an epitome of the plan of Lancaster, as abridged from an admirable article on the subject of the education of the poor in the Edinburgh review, No. 33, for November, 1810. To those who may not immediately have an opportunity of perusing this valuable article, this brief view of Lancaster's plan may prove not merely amusing, but instructive; the scheme is so clear, and so feasible, that persons of very moderate means may carry it into execution. They will see it reduced to practice at the *daily School*, established by the Quakers, and still chiefly under their direction, in *School-street, Dublin*; and if this sketch contribute to the establishment of similar seminaries in his native country, it will fulfil the heart-felt wishes of its compiler*.

* We have felt much pleasure in recording at different times the schools which have been established in Ireland on Lancaster's plan, and we hope much good will result from the instruction of the poorer classes of the Irish, whose ignorance has been their great misfortune. To a want of consideration, the natural consequence of ignorance, we must attribute many of their errors. The Edinburgh re-

In 1798, Joseph Lancaster began to exercise the honourable profession of a school-master; his plan was from the beginning to teach reading, writing, and arithmetic, to the children of the lower orders, and to save the first great expense of school-masters' salaries, he employed the elder boys to assist in teaching. The next great expense of a school arises from the consumption of books and materials for writing; to diminish this cost, J. Lancaster introduced the admirable method of making a number of boys read from the same lesson printed in large characters and suspended on the wall, and the no less useful substitute of slates for paper, whereby not only the waste of that expensive article is saved, but *any number* of boys are enabled to spell and write the same word at the same time, *without the possibility* of one being *idle* while the other is at *work*, or rather, as in the ordinary mode of education, *nineteen* being idle while *one* is employed; the same degree of alertness is kept up by the method of reading, as it were all together—which requires the failure of one boy to be corrected by the next, for the sake of taking his place, prevents the possibility of idleness or inattention. *His next step* towards the accomplishment of his great and beneficial purpose was *his mode of teaching arithmetic* by the suggestion of a method whereby read-

viewers mention that in Gloucester, where the first sunday-school was established, by the benevolent Raikes, the clergyman who attended the prison, stated that out of three thousand boys who had been educated at the sunday-school, only one boy had been imprisoned in that gaol for any crime. This circumstance must act as a powerful stimulus to those who wish for the amelioration of their fellow creatures, and shows the great benefit of impressing the minds of children with good moral sentiments.—(B. M. M.)

ing *alone* is rendered sufficient to make any one teach arithmetic. The invention is as simple as it is efficacious; it consists in giving to one boy who can read, a written or printed particular, if we may so speak, of the operation in cyphering, which is to be performed, and making him distinctly read over to any number of boys furnished with slates, the words and figures given to him thus, the lesson is to be in addition,

234

567

801

and in order to teach this lesson to 30 boys, *one* of whom can *read* and the other 29 can write the nine figures, and understand notation, a key is given to the reader, consisting of the following words, first column 7 and 4 are eleven, set down 1 under the seven, and carry one to the next second column; six and three are nine, and one 1 carried are ten, set down 0 and carry 1 to the next third column; 5 and 2 are seven and one 1 carried are 8; total in figures 801; total in words, eight hundred and one." After each boy has written the two lines 234 and 567 one under the other, the reader takes the above key and reads it audibly, while each of the 29 obey it, by writing down as it directs; each boy also reads over the sum total after the reader has finished, and he then inspects the slates one after the other; the whole are thus kept perpetually awake, and by repeated lessons of the same kind the rule required is fixed in their minds: into the details of his discipline we cannot now enter, which are devised with a thorough knowledge of his subject, derived as much from long experience as from just and even philosophical reasoning, where 800 or 1000 children are to be instructed by one master, it was necessary

to establish, and he has completely established a discipline which enables his authority to reach all over the body, and supply the want of actual inspection, and this object is attained by applying to his school the organization of a regiment, and its evolutions under the word of command. L.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON THE USE OF STRAMONIUM IN THE SPASMODIC ASTHMA.

AT page 146 of the last Magazine, a short account was given of stramonium in spasmodic asthma, a more full account is now added, extracted from several letters from a correspondent to Phillips' Monthly Magazine, published during the course of last year. It is communicated in this magazine, as from the relation there appear grounds to hope that stramonium is of essential service in a most afflictive disease, and it may be useful to extend the knowledge of its efficacy :

A writer in the London Monthly Magazine after describing his former good state of health, and the luxurious indulgence into which he had fallen, thus proceeds:—"This career of pleasure was however soon interrupted by the depredations it produced upon my constitution; the first signs of impaired health, and clouded vivacity, were soon succeeded by the most severe and afflicting attacks of spasmodic asthma, which returned at intervals of eight or ten days, with such cruel violence, that all the agreeable anticipations of life became in a manner extinguished; and during the course of several years, I was afraid to indulge in the hopes of recovery, from my complaint. At last, by a most fortunate accident, I was induced to make trial of an herb called *stru-*

monium; from which auspicious moment I have been restored, not merely to a tolerable, but to a comfortable and reasonably happy state of existence.

"The asthmatic paroxysm usually came on about two o'clock in the morning, when I was suddenly surprised from sleep with violent convulsive heavings of the chest; and I was scarcely allowed time to place myself upright in a chair, where I sat resting myself upon my elbows and with my feet upon the ground (for I could not bear them in an horizontal posture,) before I underwent a sense, as it were, of immediate suffocation. These fits generally continued, with short intermissions, from thirty-six hours to three days and nights successively; during which time I have often, in the seeming agonies of death, given myself over, and even wished for that termination of my miseries.

"It was in a great measure in vain that I consulted the most eminent physicians in the metropolis; they only afforded me a transient and tantalizing relief. An amiable friend, and respectable surgeon at Hackney, first persuaded me to smoke the divine stramonium, to which I owe altogether, my present freedom from pain, and renewed capacity of enjoyment. It is the root only, and lower part of the stem, which seem to possess its anti-asthmatic virtue; these should be cut into small pieces, and put into a common tobacco pipe, and the smoke must be swallowed together with the saliva produced by the smoke; after which the sufferer will, in a few minutes, be relieved from all the convulsive heavings, and probably drop into a comfortable sleep, from which he will awake refreshed, and in general, perfectly recovered: at least, this is the inviolable effect produced upon myself. He should by all means avoid drink-